

Brief Summary of RTO West RRG Meeting
July 21, 2003

Introduction

This summary is intended to describe some of the major topics of discussion during the July 21, 2003 meeting of the RTO West Regional Representatives Group (RRG). It is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of anyone's remarks, and it is not intended to suggest that any particular representative or entity at the RRG meeting agreed with or endorsed the views described in this summary.

Overview of Meeting

- The July 21, 2003 RRG meeting was held at the Portland Airport Sheraton beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- More than 70 interested parties attended, including approximately 26 designated RRG representatives.
- The June 25th RRG meeting was summarized. Discussion at that meeting prompted the filing utilities to prepare for the RRG's consideration at the July 21 meeting:
 - Proposal for initial "information gathering" steps; and
 - Proposed process for answering the questions listed in the initial information gathering steps.

Proposed Process for Answering Questions Listed Under "Initial Steps"

- The filing utilities' straw proposal to seek consensus during the information gathering phase was discussed.
- Additionally, many participants offered ideas for reaching a consensus during the development phase.
- Commonly held views included – the filing utilities need to bring their issues and disagreements to the RRG table in a timely manner, there needs to be room for flexible give and take at RRG; an RRG-reached consensus must be meaningful.
- Another common view is that caucuses are acceptable and expected, and each individual entity should express candidly its positions in the RRG forum to facilitate full and complete communication.
- When the RRG was asked about the filing utilities developing straw proposals, responses generally were that straw proposals are okay, if there is opportunity for debate; others, in addition to filers, are free to bring straw proposals to the table; ideas are discussed at RRG before and during the straw proposal development.
- Seeking consensus on the issues designated as "initial steps" is a separate process from any yet-to-be-determined process to develop solutions for regional transmission problems and opportunities (and any related filings to be submitted to regulatory bodies).

Input on the Region's Problems and Opportunities

- Bud Krogh thanked the RRG for their written responses.
- The RRG spent the remainder of the afternoon listing and categorizing regional transmission system problems and opportunities. It was understood that any particular problem submitted and included on the list could be an issue for a particular regional group, although the listed problem may not be a problem for other entities. Also, supporting the inclusion of an item on the list did not necessarily signal agreement that the issue warranted action (or should be addressed as part of the RRG process for exploring solutions to regional transmission problems and opportunities).
- The Coordinating Team will refine the list and check that any additional issues raised in written comments are covered. The problems and opportunities statement will be posted for the RRG before the next meeting.

Next RRG Meeting

- The next meeting of the RRG was scheduled for Thursday, July 31, 2003, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Portland Airport Sheraton Hotel. The proposed focuses of the meeting are addressing the initial step questions (2) and (3):
 - What are the problems and opportunities that warrant action?
 - Is an independent regional transmission entity the vehicle to solve the problems and capitalize on the opportunities?